

Littlefield Letters



Vol. 89

AUGUST 1989

AUGUST MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday
10 August 1989
time: 6:15 p.m.
Mess Call
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria
Hancock Center

On a hot summer's night in August what could be better than to stay cool celebrating our heritage and love for the Confederacy. Please help support your camp this time by bringing your family and friends to our monthly meeting to hear a special invited guest from Temple who will present a media program on the "Battle of New Market." Compatriot Jim Ellis is the Second Lt. Cdr. of the Temple Camp and a charter member. After spending more than twenty years in the military, he retired as a Major and now is a postal employee. His is a special interest in the Battle of New Market as he is a graduate of VMI.



ENLISTMENTS

The Recruiting Sergeant reports the addition of a new member to fill the ranks of Camp #59. Accepted into membership at the June meeting was JOHN M. WILSON who joins the SCV upon the record of his Great Great Great Uncle Francis M. Wilson who was a member of Co. I, 9th Alabama Infantry. He served until 9 April 1865. John was born August 19 in Oklahoma City. He works as a mechanic and resides at HC-03 Box 73-X, Dripping Springs, Tex. 78620. We welcome John into our ranks and urge him to avail himself fully of all the fellowship and advantages of membership.



DID'JA KNOW?

On 6 June 1861 a group of ladies started work in the Capitol making uniforms for the volunteers for the WBTS. Thus was born the Ladies Needle Battalion with 100 members.

NOTES FROM THE DIVISION COMMANDER

Texas Division Commander Pete Orlebeke has requested that information from a recent memorandum be shared with the camp.

A copy of the new Texas Division Constitution has been received, and the Adjutant has the official camp copy. A new awards program was introduced and accepted at the Division Convention. A copy of the description of each award and the criteria for competition is also in the hands of the Adjutant. As a result of the \$500 donation from the Division to the Franklin Memorial Assoc. to help pay for a bust of Gen. Hiram Granbury, the Division has received a copy of THE FLAGS OF THE CONFEDERACY which will be placed in the Confederate Research Center's library in Hillsboro. An updated roster of officers, committee chairmen, and camps of the Texas Division has been received. In response to a request from the CIC, three members from Texas have been appointed to the new Permanent Endowment Committee of the SCV. Two are from Camp #59. They are Greg Hector, Rob Jones, and Nathan White.

The 1990 TEXAS DIVISION CONVENTION will be held in Midland on June 8&9. They are planning a fine convention for all of us. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. AND, it is not too late to make plans to attend the national convention to be held in Oklahoma City, August 17-19. Wouldn't it be nice for a handful of Austinites to travel to Okla. to share in the business of the confederation and enjoy the fellowship of kindred minds.



The 1861 Confederate half dollar



The 1861 Confederate one cent piece was designed by Robert Lovett in Philadelphia.

CONFEDERATE COINAGE

When the Confederacy took over control of the mint at New Orleans, Pres. Davis authorized the production of a Confederate half dollar. Only four originals were struck. It was made from an ordinary half dollar from which the reverse sides were planed and then restamped with the Confederate die. The four were made with a hand press. A shield with seven stars was added, one for each of the current states. Also added was a Liberty cap and a wreath of sugar cane and the words "Confederate States of America Half Dol." A lack of bullion kept the CSA from minting coins on a larger scale. These are accounted for, but sometime later a New York company produced 500 restrikes as well as CSA tokens.

The only CSA coin intended for circulation was the 1861 one cent piece. No one knows exactly how many were made; 86 have been recovered. As a Northern resident, the manufacturer ceased production. Restrikes of these were later made. Either of these CSA coins could bring you good Federal money if found.

The "Littlefield Letters" is the official publication of the Major George W. Littlefield Camp N^o 59, Sons of Confederate Veterans. Permission to reprint is granted; credit line is appreciated. Subscriptions available for \$10 per year from Gregory T. Hector, editor, 3914 Sunshine Drive, Austin, Texas 78757.

A CAPITOL IDEA

On July 11, 1864, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early, Corps Commander in the ANVA sat on his horse in Maryland just six miles from the dome of the U.S. Capitol. In his front were defensive works of the Federals defending the capital. They were feebly manned. Could he take Washington City, its Treasury, its arsenals, its Capitol, and maybe its President?

Old Jube was a sharp tongued bachelor at 48, thin and fierce. Maj. Kyd Douglas classified him as "personally disagreeable." He had resigned from the old army just one year after graduating from West Point and had served briefly in the Mexican War. He was a forceful and courageous leader of men in battle. Throw out a skirmish line and attack the capital of the United States. Grant had pulled guns and men from these defenses, and now on the line there were about 4,000 home guardsmen and militia.

Reinforcements would come. Two veteran divisions had been dispatched by Grant. But here was Early confronting them. The civilians of D.C. were hysterical. Too many generals and not enough privates seemed to be a problem. "Anyone volunteering in that capacity will be thankfully received," remarked Gen. Halleck when a general in New York offered his services.

The walking wounded from hospitals were rounded up. There was a ragged formation of clerks from the office of Quartermaster Gen. Meigs. Preparations were made for destroying the bridges over the Potomac while a steamboat was on standby to whisk the President away. But Lincoln was cool.

Gen. John Gordon thought the army could have marched into Washington. There was the city awaiting plunder. But the prize was out of reach. It was not from a lack of courage or musket-power, but simply fatigue. The old "foot cavalry" of Stonewall's was too tired now to walk that far. They had struggled and marched 250 miles. It was hot. The spirit was willing, but the flesh was weak. And now, with

time on their side, the reinforcements were arriving. Official Washington was relieved, but confusion still reigned on the U.S. side. An assault on their works was ordered at first light. But the next morning Early's spyglasses spotted the VI Corps facing him. The door had slammed shut. Courage had returned to Washington. They turned out to see the fight; even the President and Mrs. Lincoln came. As he stood on the parapet, he was made a target. This was the only time in history a President of the U.S. ever came under fire in combat. Future Supreme Court Justice Holmes shouted for the "damn fool" to get down. An aide was wounded beside him. He came down, but would keep hopping up to see what was happening.

The Federals attacked but to no avail. Then they held. After dark Early began to pull out. He said, "...we've scared Abe Lincoln like H---!" Then the long retreat to Virginia, to Appomattox, into history, and away from his special moment in the tide of affairs of men.



Early, Jubal Anderson. CSA

ACCEPTING COMMAND OF THE VA. ARMIES

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention, ... Profoundly impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, for which I must say I was not prepared, I accept the position assigned me by your partiality. I would have much preferred had your choice fallen on an abler man. Trusting in Almighty God, an approving conscience, and the aid of my fellow-citizens, I devote myself to the service of my native State, in whose behalf alone will I ever again draw my sword."

-Robert E. Lee, 23 April 1861.

SHERTZ STUDENT KILLED IN UNIFORM

James W. Keith, Jr., whose father is a member of the Alamo Camp #1325, was a member of the Lone Star Living History Assoc. and the Fifth Texas Artillery serving a cannon at various events. Jimmy, in his Confederate uniform, was walking on a dark, rainy road with a fellow Confederate to a dance at the Bluebonnet Fest in La Vernia when he was struck and killed by a truck. His parents have established a scholarship fund in his memory. The camp voted to expend \$50 to donate to this scholarship fund.

DICK DOWLING STATUE

The first statue said to be erected by the city of Houston was to honor Dick Dowling the hero of Sabine Pass. It stands on one of the main routes into the Medical Center. Houston PARD has suggested that various groups help the city by adopting a statue. The Dowling family along with the Dowling Camp #1305 and others will finance the restoration and maintenance of this statue. Camp #59 voted during the July meeting to donate \$50 to help with this project.

- THE LITTLEFIELD LETTERS -

Official Publication of the
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

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Gregory T. Hector, Editor

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These Compatriots have contributed \$10 or more toward the publication of this newsletter and the continuation of the Causa.

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